

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assaying a test compound for an effect on hypertension parameters, said method comprising:
 - (a) providing a Dahl Salt-sensitive^{HSD} rat ~~non-human mammal~~ whose genome comprises a functional variant $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase hypertension susceptibility gene;
 - (b) administering said test compound to said rat ~~non-human mammal~~; and
 - (c) determining whether the test compound affects hypertension parameters in said rat ~~non-human mammal~~ relative to hypertension parameters in a rat ~~non-human mammal~~ whose genome comprises a wild type $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase gene.

2-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said hypertension parameters are blood pressure, life span, or renal pathology.